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Damon Watch: Have you seen him? All's Quiet at the Illini Country Club as Damon Films Scene

Memo to movie extras: Do not speak directly to the stars.

So they were told, says Amy Calvin, whose husband, Jack, may end up in a scene of actor Matt Damon's upcoming film, "The Informant," parts of which are being filmed in Springfield.

Jack Calvin, a 48-year-old Chatham resident and senior sales representative for Tremble Navigation Ltd., was among about 50 locals chosen Thursday at a casting call to play extras in scenes shot at Illini Country Club and the state Capitol, where the filming is supposed to take place today.

In "The Informant," Damon — named last year by People magazine as the "sexiest man alive" — plays a high-ranking executive-turned-whistleblower who spills the beans on price fixing at Decatur's Archer Daniels Midland. Since the movie is set in the 1990s, a casting group tried to find about 50 of the appropriate vehicles to ensure the movie maintained a historically accurate aesthetic, as well as locals to participate as extras.

Calvin said he never dreamed of acting in a film, but that changed after he offered his 1983 Mustang GT as one of the pre-1994 vehicles needed for a backdrop.

"They just asked me to show up on Sunday and (Monday)," Calvin said. "Obviously the movie is being filmed primarily in Decatur, but for some reason they needed a country club setting that wasn't available in Decatur."

Sunday's filming featured a scene in which Damon's character, Mark Whitacre, is subject to an FBI raid inside a Decatur country club. The film's crew went to extensive lengths to transform Illini, even stenciling the Decatur restaurant's logo on windows.

"I didn't participate in that scene, but there were probably 50 people from Springfield and Decatur who were extras," Calvin said. "We had to be in attendance from 1 in the afternoon until about 9 p.m. We started filming at about 5:30 or 6 p.m., after Matt Damon arrived at about 4:30 p.m."

As Damon walked into the country club, Calvin's wife, Amy, was able to snap a photograph of the 37-year-old actor, whose popular "Bourne" series of movies has cemented his status as a top box-office draw.

"I had my 5-year-old daughter with me, and she's really cute and outgoing," said Amy, 36. "She was very charming with the crew people, and they let her go into the hospitality

area and get cookies. They weren't all closed off to everybody, and it was quite an experience."

The cast and crew, she added, were incredibly friendly.

Jack Calvin got his big chance Monday when he participated as an extra in a restaurant scene, also shot at Illini. The experience was incredibly daunting at first, he said, because the extras had to carry out conversations in silence to avoid microphones picking up background noise.

"It was challenging to sit and converse with someone without saying anything," he said. "It was a little awkward at first, but after three or four takes, it was actually fun."

The most interesting part of shooting the scene was noticing the attention to detail of the supporting crew, he added. Forty to 50 people were involved with lighting, cameras and sound, focusing on details as minuscule as fingernail polish.

The actors all were pleasant, and Calvin said he had an opportunity to see Damon's human side, even though he wasn't allowed to speak with him.

"When he arrived (at the country club), the first thing he did was order dinner and watch the Celtics game at the bar," Calvin said.

Damon lives in the Boston area, and the Celtics defeated the Cleveland Cavaliers to advance to the Eastern Conference championship of the NBA.

The experience of working on the movie is one Calvin said he'll never forget. "The primary reason I did this was to take a break from daily grind of my business, and to experience something new," he said.

"The Informant" is set for release in March 2009.